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PRESS REPORTS

June 1950

Lewiston Daily Sun

June 22, 1950

River Agreement Stipulations are Approved by Court

**Sets Regulations for Dumping Waste Into
Androscoggin by Three Papers Companies
During Summer Months - River Master Has
Started Program of Water Testing**

A stipulation effective for the summer months on dumping sulphite liquor waste from paper mills into the Androscoggin River has been approved by Dr. Walter A. Lawrence, river master, and Justice Harry Manser, active-retired of the Maine Supreme Court. The document, filed at the Androscoggin clerk of court's office yesterday allocates the sulphite pulp tonnage for Brown Co., Oxford Paper Co. and International Paper Co. Dr. Lawrence said the allocation is substantially the same as for last summer.

Started Testing

Dr. Lawrence has already started the program of weekly testing of Androscoggin River waters for sulphite content. He reported apparatus is in readiness for the summer program of dumping nitrates into the waters in the event conditions deem this necessary.

"It depends on weather conditions and other factors. Water temperatures have remained lower so far this year than last but conditions can change rapidly," he said.

Dr. Lawrence approved the stipulation on June 19 and Justice Manser on June 20. The agreement is signed by Wentworth Brown, vice-president of the Brown Co., R. S. Hovey, executive vice-president of the Oxford Paper Co., and H. A. Weaver, vice-president of the International Paper Co.

Stipulations

The original decree granted 53.7% to the Brown Co. and 46.3% to Oxford Paper Co. on total production of finished sulphite pulp, the sulphite waste liquors resulting from manufacture of which may be discharged into the river by the companies.

During the period June 15 to Sept. 15, 1950, the allocation provided *

For the weeks in which the Brown Co. is making hardwood sulphite

* Error: Typed as printed

pulp, Oxford Paper Co. shall reduce its weekly share of the total permitted production of finished sulphite pulp by 100 tons per week and Brown Co. is permitted to increase its tonnage by the same amount. When the Brown Co. is making softwood sulphite pulp it shall reduce its weekly production by 300 tons and Oxford increase by the same amount.

Tonnage Stipulations

The stipulation points out that in the event a cut in discharge of sulphite waste liquor is necessary, Brown Co. and Oxford Paper Co. shall reduce their tonnage according to the decree and International Paper Co. 500 tons. In the event the cut shall be occasioned by complete failure of the International Co. lagoon, the companies shall reduce their combined sulphite pulp production by the tonnage required in the ratios of 1,540 tons to Brown Co., 1,330 to Oxford Paper Co., and 390 tons to International Paper Co.

In the event one of the companies cannot make use in whole or in part of its allocations, it shall make the unusable portion to the other companies to be shared 1,540 by Brown Co., 1,330 by Oxford and 500 by International.

Share Cost of Nitrates

The three companies will share the cost of nitrates used during the critical period and all direct expenses in connection therewith shall be divided in the same ratios as the amounts of sulphite waste liquor which they respectively discharge into the river.

Lowiston Evening Journal
Editorial

June 22, 1930

The River and the Nose

The annual restriction on dumping of sulphite liquor wastes into the Androscoggin river has been signed and sealed.

Dr. Walter A. Lawrence, Bates College chemistry department head who acts as river master in the summer, has begun sampling the water. Plans are perfected for the mixing of nitrates into the stream as conditions warrant.

Three big paper mills can spill only so much waste into the river from now until Fall.

In the meantime, the pollution goes on. The court provides the means to prevent the sickening stench that hangs over the valley in hot weather.

Restoration of the Androscoggin and other waters to what engineers call "pristine purity" is a mammoth task. It involves huge investments, employment problems and in many instances life and death of business in a community.

The court action helps make living more bearable along the banks of the Androscoggin. It amounts to no more than an order - "River stay 'way from my nose."

Lewiston Evening Journal

June 22, 1950

**Again Apply
Formula To
Stop River Odor**

The working formula which has kept the Androscoggin River stench below the nuisance level for the past few summers, will be applied again this year.

That was the sum and substance of an agreement filed with the County Clerk of Courts Wednesday. The agreement stipulates the amount of sulphite liquor, the waste from the manufacture of soft-wood pulp, which the Brown Company, Berlin, N. H., the Oxford Paper Company, Rumford, and the International Paper Company, Chisholm, may dump into the river through the summer months. The totals are substantially the same as year ago.

Also, the three firms will continue to share the cost of nitrates for use in treating the river when the oxygen content goes below a specified level and the formation of noxious fumes is imminent. Weekly tests are made of the river water by Dr. Walter A. Lawrence, of Bates College, court appointed River Master. He decides when and where to dump nitrates into the river.

The 1950 agreement has been approved by River Master Lawrence and also by Harry Manser, Active Retired Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court before whom the original hearings on the river nuisance case were held.

No restriction of sulphite liquor dumpings are placed on the mills through the cold month's of the year. The river water then can dispose of the waste without giving off an objectionable odor.

Lewiston Daily Sun

June 27, 1950

**Androscoggin River
Project is Lauded**

**New England Industrialists Hear of
Anti-Pollution Work**

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., June 26-AP- The State of Maine won praise today for a "unique system" of regulating industrial wastes pollution from pulp and paper factories along the Androscoggin River at a Massachusetts Institute of Technology meeting.

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Attorney E. Sherman Chase, Boston, told a New England industrial waste conference studying the problem of pollution statement that the three offending industries now help police the river.

Chase, consultant to the Maine Attorney General, said a court decree requires the industries to pay for the services of a "river administrator" and his assistants.

The factories also must reduce production of sulfite pulp, whose waste liquors are the main cause of stream pollution, should the administrator demand it.

Robert M. Edgar, Massachusetts Chairman of the New England Council, reported that the industries responsible for the greatest pollution problem were paper and pulp, textiles, leather and leather products and metal and metal products.

Edgar said these industries "are essential to the livelihood of the New England people" and require handling with "considerable engineering genius, political tact, and a first rate public relations job."

Prof. Alf Eliassen of MIT reported "increasingly strict" laws requiring treatment of municipal sewages and industrial wastes before discharge into streams.

The three-day conference is under the auspices of the New England Council, the New England Sewage Works Association and M. I. T.'s Department of Civil and Sanitary Engineering.

Press Report
August 1950

Lewiston Evening Journal
August 30, 1950

HEALTH SERVICE WILL
STUDY ANDROSCOGGIN

By L. A. Lemieux

The Androscoggin is one of four New England rivers which are next in the "priority listing" for study by the U. S. Public Service.

A survey, to be conducted by the PHS in cooperation with State agencies, is to begin in the near future, according to an announcement by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, of Boston.

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act authorized the Public Health Service to cooperate with State and interstate water pollution control agencies in the investigation of sanitary conditions on the waterways. The objective is the preparation of a comprehensive stream pollution abatement program.

A preliminary report on the Thames River Basin, in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, has been completed and awaits approval of the State pollution control agencies concerned. A similar report on the Hoosatic River, in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Vermont, and the Batten Kill River in New York and Vermont.

Next in the priority listing for preliminary or base-line reports are the Connecticut, Androscoggin, Kennebec, and Sheepscot Rivers. The last three are Maine waterways.

Coastal Water Survey

Another Public Health Service project, a survey of the sewer outfalls along the Maine seaboard, was one third completed at the end of July.

The Commission report said that "This survey is being conducted to pinpoint all sources of sewage or industrial wastes which may pollute the salt waters of the State.

"Over 30 centers of population have been inspected to date by an engineer and two chemists working individually on different sections of the coast. The coastal cities inspected include Portland, Belfast, Calais, Saco, Ellsworth, Eastport and constitute six of the ten cities located on the Maine seaboard.

"A series of samples is being collected from various points in the Presumpscot River. These are being routinely examined to ascertain the present extent of pollution in the river which is quite heavily contaminated by industrial wastes and municipal sewage.

"Similar samples are being collected and examined from the Androscoggin River to determine what effect the lagooning of sulphite waste liquors has on the pollution load and dissolved oxygen content of the river."

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Lewiston Daily Sun. November 30, 1950.

Editorial.

STILL POLLUTED, BUT SWEETER

Not very many years ago it would have been impossible for Dr. W. A. Lawrence, head of the Chemistry department at Bates College, to have defended the once-fragrant Androscoggin river from its detractors, as he did in The Sun about ten days ago. The adverse comments were included in a number of news stories that have appeared lately, testifying to the acute pollution problem on many of the major rivers of New England. But whatever may be true of the others, it is not now true of the Androscoggin, so far as its summertime odors go. The problem has been solved by Dr. Lawrence and his associates, through his authority as river master for the Androscoggin under court decree.

Now that action is being taken elsewhere- at least they are talking about it -to reduced river pollution and the objectionable smells resulting one would think that the novel procedure* would be more widely recognized. In Massachusetts and lower New Hampshire, for instance, great stress is being placed on cleaning up the Merrimac, undoubtedly one of the dirtiest rivers in the East. And the Nashua river, a sizable tributary, is in the final stages of being deodorized by construction of a big filtration, sedimentation, and clarifier-tank system aimed at keeping out of the river paper mill wastes from plants all along its banks.

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An account of what is being done on the Nashua says that though the State Health Department in Massachusetts has been wielding a "big stick" since the passage of a State anti-pollution law in 1945, the current clean up is voluntary. The State made recommendations, and the paper mills complied.

In this State a different procedure was followed, and it did not require action by the State Legislature. In the first place, a nuisance is a nuisance, whether it is created by a city dump, for example, or by paper mills dumping their wastes into rivers. The Courts, moreover, have the power to order abatement of a nuisance, once it can be established. That is what happened here. Through aid of the Attorney General, the presence of a nuisance was established on the Androscoggin. Through the courts a remedy was ordered. Then a plan was worked out whereby the mills were limited in the amount of waste they could dump into the river in the warm-weather months, and Dr. Lawrence was appointed as a sort of referee to see that the mills complied.

*add.-to improve the Androscoggin-

Lewiston Daily Sun. November 30, 1950. Continued.

Another positive action was the use of nitrates, about 1000 tons in the past year, to oxidize the sludge in the Androscoggin river and make it non-productive of odors.

The remedy was so simple that one would think it would be applied generally on other streams. Once the nuisance is proved- and no special law is required- the courts are bound to consider means of dealing with it.